

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 9 in accordance with the following:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor system for conveying a wafer or other thin workpiece having a thickness of not more than 100 μm from its carrying location to another location, comprising:

a plate-shaped member provided movably and swivelably and a moving;
swiveling means for moving and swiveling said plate-shaped member;
said plate-shaped member being provided together with a lifting means for uniformly lifting in its entirety a workpiece carried at said carrying location and a holding means for holding a workpiece lifted by said lifting means, by uniformly chucking its entirety on a workpiece chucking surface of said plate-shaped member;

said holding means being comprised of a plurality of vacuum chucking nozzles;
a plurality of Bernoulli nozzles serving as said lifting means formed in the workpiece chucking surface near an outer periphery of said plate-shaped member along said outer periphery; and

said plurality of Bernoulli nozzles and said plurality of vacuum chucking nozzles being alternately formed on the workpiece chucking surface near the outer periphery of said plate-shaped member along said outer periphery.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor system as set forth in claim 1, wherein a chucking pad of a vacuum chucking nozzle uses a porous member.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor system for conveying a wafer or other thin workpiece having a thickness of not more than 100 μm from its carrying location to another location, comprising:

a plate-shaped member provided movably and swivelably;

moving and swiveling means for moving and swiveling said plate-shaped member;
said plate-shaped member being provided together with a lifting means for uniformly lifting in its entirety a workpiece carried at said carrying location and a holding means for holding a workpiece lifted by said lifting means, by uniformly chucking its entirety on a workpiece chucking surface of said plate-shaped member;

said holding means being comprised of at least one electrostatic chucking plate;
said electrostatic chucking plate being provided at the workpiece chucking surface of said plate-shaped member;

a plurality of Bernoulli nozzles serving as said lifting means formed in the workpiece chucking surface near an outer periphery of said plate-shaped member along said outer periphery;

a controller to control drive timings of said lifting means and said holding means; and
a detachment prevention member to prevent part of the workpiece lifted by the plurality of Bernoulli nozzles from being detached from said plate-shaped member, provided at the outer periphery of the plate-shaped member, and biased by an elastic member in a direction where its front end projects out from the workpiece chucking surface of the plate-shaped member.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a controller to control drive timings of said lifting means and said holding means.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a detachment prevention member to prevent part of the workpiece lifted by the plurality of Bernoulli nozzles from being detached from said plate-shaped member, provided at the outer periphery of the plate-shaped member.

7. (ORIGINAL) A conveyor system as set forth in claim 6, wherein said detachment prevention member is biased by an elastic member in a direction where its front end projects out from the workpiece chucking surface of the plate-shaped member.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor system as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a switching station provided with a plurality of pressurized air blowing nozzles blowing pressurized air from below said workpiece so as to prevent said workpiece from dropping off when switching a workpiece lifted by said lifting means comprised of a plurality of Bernoulli nozzles to holding by said holding means.

9. (CANCELLED)

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A conveyor system as set forth in claim 4, further comprising a switching station provided with a plurality of pressurized air blowing nozzles to blow pressurized air from below said workpiece so as to prevent said workpiece from dropping off when switching a workpiece lifted by said lifting means comprised of a plurality of Bernoulli nozzles to holding by said holding means.